GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3281
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTES
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irrigation projects are still incomplete due to Inter-State River Water Disputes in the country;

(b) if so, the details of these disputes as on date;

(c) the estimated financial loss to the country as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to settle these disputes; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) The construction of Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL)canal is incomplete on account of dispute relating to sharing of surplus Ravi and Beas waters among the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan which hasbeen referred to the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT) under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes(ISWD) Act,1956 for adjudication in April, 1986. RBWT has submitted its first report on 30.1.1987. Party States and the Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under Section 5(3) of the ISWD Act, 1956.

(c) The financial loss due to non-completion of the project is dependent on many factors such as the investment made by the State Government in construction of projects and the irrigation and other benefits to be accrued from such projects etc. information whereof is not maintained by the Central Government as irrigation is State subject.

(d) & (e) Efforts were made to convene meetings with Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on September 11, 2000, June 27, 2001 and February 2, 2002 to discuss water related issues pertaining to these States. However, these meetings could not materialize. The ISWDAct, 1956 has been amended by Parliament on 28th March 2002 to provide for time-bound adjudication of disputes by the Tribunals. Also as per the amended Act, the decision of the Tribunal, after its publication in the Official Gazette, shall have the same force as an order or decree of the Supreme Court.